



# SALEM

## Essex County



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## NARRATIVE

### **Narrative**

Salem is an historic seaside community located approximately 16 miles north of Boston.

From its days as one of the earliest landing sites of the English colonists, to its rise as the first major port in the United States, to its trailblazing efforts in opening up the East Indian trade, to its heyday as a thriving hub of American commerce and the home of Nathaniel Hawthorne, Salem's historical legacy is rich. Unfortunately, a well-known blemish on that legacy involved the infamous Salem Witchcraft Trials of 1692.

Nonetheless, the City's golden years have left her modern inhabitants with architectural treasures, fine museums, and a sparkling literary heritage. Equally important, the development of Salem has produced a rich ethnic history, to which people of all races, creeds, colors and origins have contributed over the generations. Even today, Salem services children speaking no less than 20 different languages in its public school system. Long a trading, manufacturing and retail center, Salem has been making a slow, and sometimes painful, transition to a service-based economy. The City today serves as the home of Salem State College, the North Shore Medical Center, the Essex County District Superior and Probate Courts, and Registry of Deeds, the world-famous Peabody and Essex Museum, and a host of banks and other financial institutions. It is the educational, medical, legal, cultural and banking hub of the North Shore.

(Narrative supplied by community)



# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

Eastern Massachusetts, bordered by Swampscott and Lynn on the south, Peabody on the west, Beverly on the north, and Marblehead on the east. Salem is located on Salem Bay 16 miles north of Boston; 20 miles southeast of Lawrence; 90 miles south of Portland, Maine; and 236 miles from New York City.

**Total Area:** 18.05 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 8.10 sq. miles

**Population:** 38,091

**Density:** 4,703 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Middleton Station)

Normal temperature in January.....25.8°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.6°F

Normal annual precipitation.....43.6"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Salem, Lynn, Marblehead North, Marblehead South

## Regional Planning Agency

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (978) 745-9595

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Mayor-Council

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1626

As a city: 1836

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	19,680		
Democrats	8,684	44.1	%
Republicans	1,874	9.5	%
Other parties	14	0.1	%
Unenrolled Voters	9,108	46.3	%

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Salem city, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	40,407	100.0	<b>HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE</b>		
<b>SEX AND AGE</b>			Total population.....	40,407	100.0
Male.....	18,745	46.4	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	4,541	11.2
Female.....	21,662	53.6	Mexican.....	131	0.3
Under 5 years.....	2,264	5.6	Puerto Rican.....	759	1.9
5 to 9 years.....	2,453	6.1	Cuban.....	44	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	2,247	5.6	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	3,607	8.9
15 to 19 years.....	2,328	5.8	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	35,866	88.8
20 to 24 years.....	3,073	7.6	White alone.....	33,277	82.4
25 to 34 years.....	6,877	17.0	<b>RELATIONSHIP</b>		
35 to 44 years.....	6,606	16.3	Total population.....	40,407	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	5,517	13.7	In households.....	39,247	97.1
55 to 59 years.....	1,869	4.6	Householder.....	17,492	43.3
60 to 64 years.....	1,457	3.6	Spouse.....	6,790	16.8
65 to 74 years.....	2,797	6.9	Child.....	10,351	25.6
75 to 84 years.....	2,174	5.4	Own child under 18 years.....	7,465	18.5
85 years and over.....	745	1.8	Other relatives.....	1,796	4.4
Median age (years).....	36.4	(X)	Under 18 years.....	543	1.3
18 years and over.....	32,250	79.8	Nonrelatives.....	2,818	7.0
Male.....	14,672	36.3	Unmarried partner.....	1,121	2.8
Female.....	17,578	43.5	In group quarters.....	1,160	2.9
21 years and over.....	30,429	75.3	Institutionalized population.....	162	0.4
62 years and over.....	6,552	16.2	Noninstitutionalized population.....	998	2.5
65 years and over.....	5,716	14.1	<b>HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE</b>		
Male.....	2,206	5.5	Total households.....	17,492	100.0
Female.....	3,510	8.7	Family households (families).....	9,707	55.5
<b>RACE</b>			With own children under 18 years.....	4,229	24.2
One race.....	39,408	97.5	Married-couple family.....	6,790	38.8
White.....	34,497	85.4	With own children under 18 years.....	2,621	15.0
Black or African American.....	1,274	3.2	Female householder, no husband present.....	2,319	13.3
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	87	0.2	With own children under 18 years.....	1,352	7.7
Asian.....	807	2.0	Nonfamily households.....	7,785	44.5
Asian Indian.....	120	0.3	Householder living alone.....	6,105	34.9
Chinese.....	158	0.4	Householder 65 years and over.....	2,015	11.5
Filipino.....	91	0.2	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	4,584	26.2
Japanese.....	117	0.3	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	4,281	24.5
Korean.....	52	0.1	Average household size.....	2.24	(X)
Vietnamese.....	200	0.5	Average family size.....	2.95	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	69	0.2	<b>HOUSING OCCUPANCY</b>		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	19	-	Total housing units.....	18,175	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	7	-	Occupied housing units.....	17,492	96.2
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	3	-	Vacant housing units.....	683	3.8
Samoa.....	1	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	8	-	occasional use.....	72	0.4
Some other race.....	2,724	6.7	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.9	(X)
Two or more races.....	999	2.5	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	2.5	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			<b>HOUSING TENURE</b>		
<i>or more other races: <sup>3</sup></i>			Occupied housing units.....	17,492	100.0
White.....	35,303	87.4	Owner-occupied housing units.....	8,586	49.1
Black or African American.....	1,562	3.9	Renter-occupied housing units.....	8,906	50.9
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	236	0.6	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.40	(X)
Asian.....	955	2.4	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.09	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	73	0.2			
Some other race.....	3,319	8.2			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



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# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 676

Conventional Federal: 39

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 105

Federal (Section 8): 584



# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Salem is situated in the Greater Boston Area, which has excellent rail, air, and highway facilities. State Route 128 and Interstate Route 495 divide the region into inner and outer zones, which are connected by numerous "spokes" providing direct access to the airport, port, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

### Major Highways

Principal highways are State Routes 1A, 107, and 114.

### Rail

Commuter rail service to North Station, Boston, is available from Salem. Travel time: 25-34 min.; 340 MBTA parking spaces. The Springfield Terminal Railway offers freight rail service. Contact number: (978) 663-1073

### Bus

Salem is a member of the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA). There is fixed route service to Boston, North Beverly, Lynn, Salem Center and Danvers. Michaud Bus Lines provides service within Salem and to Peabody.

### Other

The Beverly Municipal Airport, a Reliever (RL) facility in neighboring Beverly, has 3 asphalt runways 3,500'; 4,634'; and 5,001' long. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



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# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Essex Institute  
132 Essex Street  
(978) 744-3390  
House of the Seven Gables  
54 Turner Street  
(978) 744-0991  
Peabody Museum of Salem  
East India Square  
(978) 745-1876  
Ropes Mansion  
318 Essex Street  
(978) 744-0718  
Salem Maritime National Historic Site  
174 Derby Street  
(978) 744-4323  
Salem Wax Museum  
288 Derby Street  
(978) 740-2WAX  
Salem Witch Museum  
19-1/2 Washington Square N.  
(978) 744-1692

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

Salem Hospital  
Shaughnessey-Kaplan Rehab.

### Long Term Care

Newhall Nursing Home  
Shaughnessey-Kaplan Rehab. Snf

### Hospices

None

### Rest Homes

Brookhouse Home For Aged Women

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)



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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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The Department of Housing and Community Development would like to thank the many government agencies noted as having provided information for the community profiles. In addition to these agencies, the Regional Transit Authorities assisted with the transportation component of the profiles. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of many city and town officials, which enabled us to include information obtainable only at the local level. DHCD would also like to thank the following individuals for providing special help: Leslie A. Kirwan, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Local Services, Department of Revenue; Richard Shibley, Deputy Secretary of State; Bob Beattie of the Department of Public Health; Charles W. Clifford from the Martha's Vineyard Commission; Dennis Coffey of the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction; Donna Fletcher and Christian Jacqz of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs; James Griffin from the MBTA; Karen Loh from Banker & Tradesman; Todd Maio from the Department of Welfare; Geoffrey Morton from the Election Division of the Secretary of State's Office; Stephen R. Muench of the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission; Rol Murrow of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association; Mary Ann Neary and Emmanuelle Fletcher, reference librarians at the State House Library; Jeff Nellhaus from the Department of Education; and George Sanborn, reference librarian at the State Transportation Library.

NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.